



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
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Minutes 02/18/2009

ARINGTON FINANCE COMMITTEE
 MINUTES OF MEETING
 7:30PM TOWN HALL HEARING ROOM
 2/18/09

ATTENDEES:

McGaffigan*		Bayer*	Phelps*	Dunn*
DeCoursey	Connors*	Simmons	Olszewski*	
Tosti*	Foskett*	Deyst*	Ronan*	
Ferrara *	Franclemont*	Jones *	Deshler*	
DuBois*	Howard*	Fanning*	Carman*	Turkall*

* Indicates present

VISITORS: Treasurer Stephen Gilligan, Assessor Robert Greeley, Capital Planning Committee Members John FitzMaurice, Anthony Lionetta, Barbara Thornton

MINUTES of 2/11/09 accepted as printed. Unanimous

ART 35 PARKING REVOLVING FUND: Using a handout, Giligan explained why he proposes to fund the parking function from fines rather than through appropriations from the general fund. He stated that fines bring in much more revenue than the \$100k required by the parking department. He would cap the fund at \$100k. Members raised several objections: it is doubtful whether revolving funds can pay salaries, fines are intended to encourage good parking behavior not to fund government operations, arguments for improved operation not convincing. VOTED no action. Unanimous. Jones to draft comment.

ART 44 CAPITAL BUDGET Foskett and CPC members walked the FinCom through a 28 page handout and an attached 5 yr capital plan. The plan has been scaled back to cost 5% of the currently projected (Scenario 3) revenues which are less than projected last yr. Discussion centered on plans to renovate the rink. Half the cost (\$40k) would be carried by the Recreation Enterprise Fund & half (\$40k) by the General Fund. This is contrary to assurances FinCom members received over the years that the renovation would be paid by a combination of private fund raising & increased fees. FinCom members stated that they realize that hockey is important to Arlington. VOTED \$8,242,949. Unanimous.

ART 45 RESCIND AUTHORITY TO BORROW: Gilligan, using a handout, recommended rescinding monies authorized to borrow for Dallin & Hardy school rebuild/renovation but neither needed nor borrowed. VOTED favorable action to rescind authority to borrow \$177,472. Unanimous.

ART 59 REVALUATION: Greeley requested \$20k to complete the inspection that was begun in Fy09 and \$50k to revise the records. Although there was only one bidder, Greeley was able to substantially reduce price. The next required complete revaluation will be in 2015.

VOTED \$70k. Unanimous. The comment will note the likelihood that revaluation costs will be very low for the next several years.

ART 60 PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS: Greeley proposed to increase the exemptions available to the poor, the blind, and the elderly. A minimum exemption level is set for each class of tax payers. Arlington currently pays 30% over the minimum. The Board would raise this to 40%. 569 residents benefit from these exemptions. FinCom members expressed doubt that these residents are seriously affected by the recession. Also there was concern that several exemptions have no income qualification. The FinCom did, however, approve the Senior Service appropriation.

VOTED no action 14-1. McGaffigan to draft a comment.

COMMITTEE: Tosti asked members to ask departments about their vacation roll over policy. Turkall provided a hearing schedule.

2/23 33 PAYT, 49 Recycling, 55 Mead Rd

2/25 61 Water Bodies Fund, 27 After School Scholarship Fund, AYCC, 49 Human Rights
3/4 Minuteman Tech

RESERVE FUND BALANCE: \$287,000

Peter B Howard 2/19/09 Revised 2/23/09

cc FinCom Members, Selectmen, Town Manager, Comptroller, Library File, Town Web Site FinCom Web Site

VOTE SUMMARY - Articles

# 2/11	#	#	Title	Date Heard	Date Voted	Status (Unlisted votes were unanimous)
16			Marihuana Bylaw			Public Safety SubCom to inquire
27			After School Scholarship Fund			
28			Max Age for Appointment to Police & Fire			TM
29			Max Age For Police & Fire			
30			Transfer Of McClennen Park			
31			Goodman Pension Time	2/11		
32			Govt Reorg Committee	2/11		Need cost est
33			Pay As You Throw			
34			Library Copiers & Printers Fund			TM
35			Parking Fund	2/18	2/18	No action
39			Collective Bargaining			TM
40			Future Collective Bargaining			TM
41			Salary Adjustment Elected Officials			TM
42			Positions Reclassification			
43			Budgets			
44			Capital Budget	2/18	2/18	8242949
45			Rescind authority to borrow	2/18	2/18	177472
46			Minuteman Tech			

47		Minutean Tech Stabilization Fund			
48		Celebrations			TM
49		Committees & Commissions			
50		Misc Appropriations			TM
51		Sewers			TM
52		Water			TM
53		Pension Adjustment	2/11	2/11	Support
55		Mead Road Improvements			
56		Disability Commission Appropriation			
57		Harry Barber Service Program	2/11	2/11	7500
58		Minuteman Senior Services	2/11	2/11	10145 9-4
59		Reevaluation	2/18	2/18	70000
60		Tax Exemptions	2/18	2/18	No action 14-1
61		Water Bodies			
62		Special Ed Reserve Account			Super
63		OPEB			TM
64		Tip Fee Stab Fund			
65		Transfer of Cemetery Funds			
66		Overlay Reserve			
67		Stabilization Fund			
68		Free Cash			

VOTE SUMMARY-Budgets

#	Title	Date Heard	Date Voted	Amount	Vote Unlisted votes were unanimous
1	FinCom				
2	Board of Selectmen				
3	Town Manager				
4	Personnel				
5	Information Technology				
6	Comptroller				
7	Treasurer				
8	Postage				
9	Assessors				
10	Legal				
11	Town Clerk				
12	Registrar of Voters				
13	Parking				
14	Planning				

